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The West Virginian

Northern West Virginia's Greatest Newspaper

THE WEATHER.

Snow and warmer tonight; Tuesday snow.

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FAIRMONT, WEST VIRGINIA, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 14, 1917.

TODAY'S NEWS TODAY

PRICE THREE CENTS

COSTLY FIRE OCCURS IN WASHINGTON BARRACKS

AGREE ON GAS FIGHT PETITION

Attorneys Draw up Plans For Proceedure Before The P.S.C.

FARMERS SUFFERING

Companies Refuse to Let Them Have Gas From Wells on Their Farms.

Drafting a petition that outlines the great need of West Virginia gas for West Virginia was the feature of a conference of legal advisors which was held in Parkersburg on Saturday. It was an all day session, having started at 10 o'clock in the morning and continued until 4 o'clock in the afternoon. All of the conferees were attorneys representing the people and industrial interests in their fight for their own.

One of the striking statements in the petition is that the exporting gas companies in some instances are refusing to let the people who own the land on which gas wells are located have any gas. In spite of the fact that there is great quantities of gas under their homes farmers this winter in many places are actually suffering because the companies refuse to send the gas to Pittsburgh and refuse to make arrangements which will permit the farmers to heat their homes.

The petition also contains a series of strong statements showing the need of keeping an adequate supply of West Virginia gas at home for domestic and industrial consumption.

This document will be filed with the Public Service Commission at Charleston and it will be the basis of the fight for fair treatment in the gas matter. It is expected that the commission some time soon after the receipt of the petition will set a day for hearings to begin.

Attorneys who attended the Parkersburg conference in addition to Hon. W. Scott Meredith, legal representative of the Fairmont gas consumers, are Philip P. Stoeper and J. E. Law, of Clarksburg; Attorney George W. Johnson, of Parkersburg; Hon. Fred O. Blue, of Charleston; Attorney H. G. Kump, of Elkins.

DR. STOETZER'S 18TH ANNIVERSARY

The eighteenth anniversary of the pastorate of Dr. H. G. Stoetzer was celebrated in a fitting manner yesterday at the First Presbyterian church when large congregations turned out to attend service and to do honor to one who has served long and faithfully as shepherd of the flock and during whose ministry the church has increased in efficiency, membership and also financially.

Dr. Stoetzer came here eighteen years ago from Cumberland county, Pa. where he had served at Dickinson as pastor for six years, having taken that charge immediately upon his graduation from Princeton Theological seminary.

During the eighteen years the church has been increased numerically until it now has a membership of over 100. During the recent years the congregation has built the handsome new church edifice which has only been occupied for a few months and this also stands as a monument to the faithfulness and energy of Dr. Stoetzer and a corps of equally zealous workers.

Four new members were received into the church yesterday at the morning service. Special music featured both services in addition to excellent sermons delivered by Dr. Stoetzer. The Presbyterian quartet under the leadership of the chorister, Mrs. Myrtle Shaw Waddell, rendered effectively several anthems and a duet by Mrs. Waddell and Mrs. Forrest Fankhauser at the morning service and a solo by Miss Helen Jones of Oberlin, Ohio, at the evening service featured the song services.

GIRLS IN THRIFT CAMPAIGN



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Supplied with a large stock of posters and display placards describing the war savings stamp movement, the Junior League invaded the business section of New York with a view of enlisting the co-operation of the business people of that section of the city in the "Thrift Campaign." They succeeded in getting all the merchants to display posters in their windows and are determined to continue their work until the service of every merchant in the city has been enlisted in the campaign to raise \$100,000,000 in New York district through the sale of Thrift and War Savings Stamps.

U.S. STEAMER IS SINKING AT SEA

NAVY REPORTS

Cause of the Trouble Was Not Disclosed in the Advices.

(By Associated Press)
AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 14.—Agents of the American steamship Texas, a vessel of 1,600 tons, today received advices from naval authorities that she was sinking at sea. The location of the ship was not given. The naval authorities did not state the cause of the Texas's distress, but reports reaching shipping circles here from other sources were that the vessel had been rammed amidship in a collision with another ship.

It was said a steamer which had picked up the Texas's SOS calls was hurrying to her assistance and that the crew of 43 had taken to the boats.

The Texas left here recently with a cargo of nitrate bound for a French port, agents of the vessel stated.

Fragmentary wireless messages suggested that the damaged steamer belonged to fleet passing north but as none of the messages indicated what had struck them aroused some concern as to actual cause of their trouble.

Three Injured Miners Brought to Hospital

Paul Pelluzzo, a miner in the employ of the Consolidation Coal company at Ida May, had his left arm crushed off while at work early today. He was brought to Fairmont Hospital No. 3 today where his injuries were dressed. While his condition is serious it is thought he will recover.

Two patients with fractured limbs were admitted to the hospital late this afternoon from Rowlesburg and the Hoult mines. Their names were not obtainable at press time.

COURTNEY-LEVELLE.

The marriage of Edward Courtney, of Philadelphia, and Miss Catherine Levelle, daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Levelle, of this city, took place at noon today at the home of the bride on Carleton street. Rev. Clarence D. Mitchell, pastor of the Central Christian church, performed the marriage ceremony. Mr. Courtney and his bride will leave tomorrow for Philadelphia where they will reside.

ROTARIANS URGING AERIAL FIRE TRUCK

Committee Appeared Before Board of Affairs This Morning.

Rev. H. G. Stoetzer and W. J. Wierci, members of the civic committee of the Fairmont Rotary club, appeared before the Board of Affairs at their weekly session this morning and suggested that the city purchase an aerial truck for the Fairmont Fire department. No definite action was decided upon but the matter was taken under consideration.

The proposed fire truck would be operated by motor and would be equipped with ladders which could reach 65-75 feet in the air. Because of the cost of an aerial truck, it would be necessary to make a special levy, before it could be purchased.

Lutheran Laymen Will Hold Banquet

Laymen of Grace Lutheran church will banquet at the church next Saturday evening at 6:30 o'clock instead of Thursday evening as was originally announced. This change was made for the purpose of convenience to those who are engaged at work on Thursday evening. The affair is being held for the purpose of having the men of the church meet Rev. H. O. Reynolds, the new pastor, and it is most probable that a laymen's social union will be formed at that time. No admission will be charged. The Ladies' Aid society will serve the banquet.

John F. Shafferman will act as toastmaster. Responses will be made by Rev. John S. Robinson, Rev. H. O. Reynolds, C. H. Bloom, C. A. Pilson, Prof. George H. Colebank and others.

Bi-Monthly Pay For City Employees

Beginning with this month all employees of the city will receive their pay twice instead of once each month. The change was authorized at the weekly meeting of the Board of Affairs this morning.

The next pay will be made up on January 15 and given out five days later. The pay will be made up on the first and fifteenth of each month and will be payable on the fifth and twentieth.

For several years the city employees have gotten their pay but once per month.

2,000,000 TON SLUMP ON THE C.&O. LAST YEAR

Operators Say Lack of Cars Was Responsible For It.

DAN HOWARD HONORED

Well Known Coal Operator President of Clarksburg B. of T.

Rosin at \$60 Per Ton Takes Place of Coal

A. T. Reynolds, representing the Atlas-Portland Cement Company is New York is among the permanent guests at The Fairmont. Mr. Reynolds has been in Fairmont for about three months doing nothing else but looking after shipments of coal for his company.

He reports that at present the Atlas-Portland Cement Company is substituting rosin for coal. The rosin that is used as fuel costs the company \$60 per ton.

The loading figures for last year on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad have just been issued and show that there was a slump of 2,000,000 tons, which is accounted for in various ways. The railroad officials say that the road has had sufficient equipment to keep the coal moving away from the mines all right and claim that other railroads were unable to absorb the coal when offered at junction points.

The mine operators say that they could have turned out lots more of coal if it had been possible to secure more cars. December, 1917, the poorest month of the year, led to the appeal of the operators for improvement resulting in the establishment of a coal pool at Russell, Ky., which is expected to be in operation this week.

Coal Notes.

Eighty mines, with a production capacity of 32,600 tons, were idle last Thursday because of car shortage, throwing out of employment many miners, according to reports given out by Max T. Price, secretary of the Kanawha Coal Shippers' Association. Equipment was asked for the loading and transportation of 75,540 tons; less than one-third enough war supplied.

Col. W. T. Thomas, of Bramwell, one of the wealthy coal men of the Pocahontas field, is dead, aged 55. He was prominent in politics, representing the Republicans at one of the national conventions.

W. R. Mattoon, of the United States forest service, has left Washington for visits to West Virginia, Louisiana and Kentucky in hopes to be able to assist the federal fuel administrators in these states to have firewood used in a further effort to conserve coal, according to advices reaching J. Walter Barnes.

Daniel Howard, president and general manager of the Fairmont Central Coal Co., has been elected president of the Clarksburg Board of Trade. A leader in every movement for the good of Clarksburg or northern West Virginia and one of the most popular and widely known business men of that city, the selection is an admirable one and will gratify his many friends in the coal business in the Fairmont district.

J. V. Gibson, chairman of the coal committee of Preston county, has been elected mayor of Kingwood.

The Davis Fuel Co. of Morgantown, elected all the old officers at its annual meeting, as follows: A. T. Davis, president; Dr. F. B. Hess, vice president; P. B. Hickman, treasurer; S. H. Fiedler, secretary and sales manager.

U. M. W. Officials Must Answer in W. Va. Case

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—President Frank J. Hayes and 15 other officials and members of the United Mine Workers of America were today ordered by the Supreme Court to show cause why they should not be declared in contempt of court for violating injunctions restraining representatives of the organization from attempting to organize the employees of the Hitchman Coal and Coke company of Wheeling, W. Va.

AMERICAN RED CROSS HELP FRENCH REFUGEES



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This American Red Cross ambulance has stopped in a French village to render aid to refugees gathered there. French official photo.

TEN OR MORE ARE DEAD AS RESULT OF TEXAS WRECK

Coach in Middle of Train Picked Switch and Pile-Up Results.

(By Associated Press)
HOUSTON, Texas, Jan. 14.—Several persons were killed and many other injured when a Houston and Texas central northbound passenger train from Houston to Dallas split a switch at Hammond early today.

The train was Number 17 known as the Owl and left here at 11:30 last night. The wreck occurred when the head coach split a switch after train tender and baggage car and mail car had passed safely. Several cars were overturned.

The wreck occurred at 3:25 this morning. Hammond is on the main line six miles south of Bremind and 13 miles north of Houston. Five soldiers, a woman, two girls and a baby were counted among the dead according to word from Bremind near the wreck. One man of the dozen or more injured also died shortly after the derailment.

Ten, 12 or 14 dead, and possibly 20 injured was a report received by the Southern Pacific general offices from its dispatches at Hearne. The dispatcher reported that a portion of train 17 crashed into a freight engine standing on a siding and that 4 or 5 passenger cars piled against this engine.

Russian Armistice Extended to Feb. 18

LONDON, Jan. 14.—Warning of the possibility of a final breach in the Russia-German negotiations is the outstanding feature of the current news from Petrograd. In the meantime, according to a correspondent of the Adly Mail in the Russian capital, the armistice had been extended until Feb. 18 and the Russian delegation returned to Petrograd tomorrow, but the peace negotiations will be resumed after an interval at Warsaw.

Premier Lenin has returned to Petrograd and is reported to be taking an important part in guiding the negotiations with the Central powers, although avoiding the limelight. The correspondent of the Daily Mail says that some extremists are dissatisfied with foreign minister Trotsky's conduct of the negotiations, thinking he is too willing to meet the German views, and they suggest that Lenin take his place at future conferences.

The Petrograd correspondent of the Daily News reports that the Germans are doing their utmost to stop fraternalization at the front. He interprets this to mean that the Bolshevik propaganda is having its effect on the German soldiers. Notwithstanding this, he adds, the German soldiers crawl across the Russian line every night to obtain copies of the papers secretly.

Fined for Breaking State Mining Law

For breaking open a safety trap in a gaseous mine Philip Lipnok, a foreign miner, was arrested on Saturday and fined \$50 and costs were imposed by Justice Lee Toothman, of Farmington. This is a serious offense against the state mining laws. Fortunately the Lipnok had extinguished the flame in the lamp preparatory to breaking it open.

ARMY FOOD WORTH MILLION DOLLARS DESTROYED TODAY

Capital City Fire Department Helped Soldiers Fight Flames.

BIG WAREHOUSE RUINED

Explosions of Stored Gasoline Made Firemen's Work Hard.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Jan. 14.—A quantity of army supplies including a million dollars worth of food was destroyed, the quartermasters warehouse ruined and several other buildings damaged by fire today at the Washington barracks occupied by engineer troops.

A large part of the city's fire apparatus was called on to fight the flames which were given impetus by the explosion of a quantity of gasoline stored in one part of the big warehouse.

After a hard fight of an hour and a half the fire was extinguished.

An ordnance building containing a quantity of small arms ammunition was endangered, but soldiers removed what was stored there.

The origin of the fire has not been disclosed by officials at the post.

A limited quantity of clothing and shoes was destroyed.

CORONER IS LOOKING INTO HOY FATALITY

Jury Empannelled This Morning Will Conduct Inquest Thursday.

While driving a heavy truck across a Baltimore and Ohio railroad track at Mannington on Saturday evening Oscar Hoy was struck by a freight train and instantly killed. County Coroner Frank Lloyd visited the scene of the accident on Saturday evening. He made another trip to Mannington this morning and appointed the following jury which will meet on Thursday morning at 10 o'clock at Mannington to decide whether or not the affair was of accidental nature: L. Snider, T. L. Starn, C. K. Kendall, L. H. Clelland, E. M. Yost and Elmer Masters.

At the time of the accident Hoy was driving down Main street. He did not see the freight train which was west bound and before he could stop the truck was on the railroad track. He was knocked from the truck and instantly killed. Hoy is well known in Marion county and is a resident of Mannington.

City Hall Notes

Insurance amounting to \$15,000 on the boilers at the pump station was authorized at the meeting of the Board of Affairs this morning. The policy will be placed with the Hartford Insurance Company.

Land recently purchased by the city and not used in the improvements on Lowell street was sold this morning to James M. Cunningham. Another parcel of land in the same vicinity was sold to John Y. Hite.

David Dean, formerly employed as an engineer for the city, was at the city hall this morning calling on his former co-employees.

WANTED.

Good sized boy for delivery work. Must be quick and active. Apply Fairmont Printing and Publishing Co., Monroe St.

Laborers Wanted

in Shipping Department. Apply OWENS BOTTLE MACHINE CO.

If You are Interested in the Gas Fight Read The West Virginian to Get the Latest Developments